THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Sir, instances of non-compliance of freeship conditions, violation of terms and conditions of allotment and allegation of non-transparent mode of allotment of hospital/ school plots have led the Delhi Development Authority to decide disposal of hospital and school sites by tender/auction precedure. While hospital sites are now disposed of by auction, 50% of senior secondary school sites in every neighbourhood are offered to Government of Delhi and the remaining 50% are disposed of by auction. All primary school sites are offered to the municipal bodies.

(c) DDA has reported that a total of eleven Hospital/Nursing Home/ Dispensary sites have been disposed of through auction/tender. The total bid amount received from these sites is Rs. 88.678 crore. Four (4) Hospital sites are now available for disposal. For the first time, 3 school sites were put on auction on 30th June 2006. Bids have been received for 2 sites for an amount of Rs. 28.61 crore. In addition, 22 Senior Secondary school sites are now available for disposal.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Auction is a transparent and credible mode of disposal of land. The conduct of the societies/auction purchasers, running schools and hospitals on such land would continue to be subject to statutory provisions of respective Acts that govern the running of Schools and Hospitals in Delhi.

Visit of Foreign Secretary to Sri Lanka

*164. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's Foreign Secretary on an invitation from the Sri Lankan counterpart, visited Sri Lanka (Colombo) to settle issues with the LTTE;

(b) if so, the outcome of the visit; and

(c) what further steps if any are being taken to ensure peace in the neighbouring country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. The Foreign Secretary visited Colombo from July 3-4, 2006 on an invitation from his Sri Lankan counterpart.

(b) and (c) During the discussions that Foreign Secretary had with the Sri Lankan leadership, both sides reiterated the high priority that they attach to expansion of bilateral cooperation in all spheres. While reaffirming

commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka, Government of India has emphasized to the Government of Sri Lanka the need to make all possible efforts to strengthen the ceasefire and to revive the political dialogue in order to move the peace process forward. Government of India has also conveyed that any escalation of violence will not only undermine the ceasefire but also result in civilian casualities. The Government of Sri Lanka has conveyed that war is not an option and that it remained committed to a political solution to the ethnic issue. Government of India will continue to press for a politically negotiated settlement of the ethnic issue which is acceptable to all sections of Sri Lankan society.

Basic amenities at Metro Rail stations

*165. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite huge earnings by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation in Delhi, no basic amenities like drinking water and toilet facilities, etc. have been provided for passengers at the Metro Rail Stations;

(b) if so, the reasons for no providing such facilities for passengers at the Metro Rail stations; and

(c) whether Government intend to provide such facilities and if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Ltd. has reported that out of 54 Metro Stations in operation, toilet facilities are available at 40 Metro Stations. Toilet facilities are not being provided at underground stations and some of the elevated stations (on Line-1) due to space constraint or where there is no demand due to less traffic. However, for all future extensions, provisions are being made to provide toilets at all stations.

For drinking water, public taps have not been provided, as these are likely to be misused and the area may get soiled. Arrangements have, therefore, been made to provide drinking water through vending machines installed in 43 out of the 54 Metro Stations. DMRC is making efforts to provide drinking water vending machines at remaining stations also within next 4-6 months time.